

gles towards the uplift of human kind is at home, and in those corners of it where there is still a mighty army of unregenerate barbarians, who are but one remove from cannibals—they do not eat their victims—though they roast them.

The Chinese heathen have not yet reached this high point in civilization. We hear of no lynchings in China and no burning of men for crimes real or imaginary. This then is the difference between the followers of, and believers in the teachings of Mahomet and Confucius; and the righteous and holy Europeans who seem to feel that they are specially commissioned to civilize and Christianize these people who had a religion and a civilization when European nations were living in caves and eating the raw flesh of wild animals.

To nations, families, races God gives missions but he has not commissioned any European nation to carry to these children of the Orient a religion which they cannot assimilate nor reconcile to their methods of thought and belief, since for five thousand years they have had a religion of their own which may in every essential be to them what the white man's religion appears to be to him—if not more. The spread of Mohammedanism in China is doing much to clog the wheels of European missionary effort in that country, and the stereotyped missionary reports of the spread of the religion of Jesus Christ in foreign lands especially deceives no one who is a close and critical observer of the work of these misguided and over zealous defenders of a faith of which they possess a monopoly.

The humanity of the Chinese is beginning to assert itself and is made more manifest in their determination to rid their land of "Christian dogs" as they characterize the missionaries who are spending as much to convert one John Chinaman as it would require to educate one of our white Heathens at the South who now kills time and kills Negroes for lack of something better to employ his talents and to make him think great and noble and elevating thoughts.

The recent democratic convention at Kansas City discovered a great paucity of real statesmanship and a woful lack of practical politics in its deliberations and actions. We break with David B. Hill of New York, who let the cat out of the meal bag and made plainer the sentiment which has long been known to exist in that party expressive of doubt and uncertainty as to the solidarity of the great unwashed or the wisdom of the financial plank in the Chicago platform of 1896, as an issue for 1900. The democratic party can no more hope to win with the candidate it has nominated and the platform it has just adopted than it can fly.

That platform is its death warrant and the chief executioners are William J. Bryan and Adlai Stevenson.

The democrats who ate crow and swallowed hemlock in the interest of harmony, will not enthuse over the candidates or the principles for which they stand.

Glittering qualities and sophomoric utterances mixed with sophistry as that platform manifestly is, will not mislead the people nor be mistaken for the work of far seeing statesmanship. The Boer plank in the platform which was read by Ben Tillman of South Carolina, who in a speech in the senate some time ago, publicly confessed himself a murderer, will as Mrs. Mary Ellen Lease well says, appeal to the

ex-rebel and ex-slaveholding classes in the south. Of the performance of Pitchfork Tillman, Mrs. Lease says:

"Strong sympathy was expressed for the Boers, and in this at least, democracy was consistent with its past record. The Boers have enslaved the native Africans wherever they have come in contact with them, and again and again the supremacy of the British flag has brought them liberation. The Boers did not trek into the wilds of Africa to establish a republic upon the equality of all men. They sought to establish a slave oligarchy, lest such a government as democracy sought to establish when it made war upon our republic a few years ago. Hence the slave-holding are in sympathy with the slave-holding Boers and it was touching to have Pitchfork Tillman grow pathetic as he pleaded for recognition for the Boers in their struggle for freedom."

The rank hypocrisy and humbug which this democratic wall for freedom from these Dutchmen with the chimpanzee whiskers, is as ridiculous as it is deceitful and damnable.

Bad as the democratic platform is, dangerous as are the men who hope to land it to victory by appeal to the worst passions of the worst elements in this country, it will not do for the republican party or its managers to rest supinely in the knowledge of the fact that its candidates represent a broader statesmanship or that the platform upon which they stand and the principles and policies to which they are committed, will be sufficient for all the purposes in the campaign upon which we are about to enter.

Mr. McKinley's position just now is particularly delicate and the slightest faux pas will give his rival an advantage over him. The Chinese imbroglio will have to be handled with the thickest kind of velvet gloves, if handled at all, to prevent a blunder which may cost him the presidency. Sooner or later he will have to face one or the other of these propositions—Shall the United States proceed independently or join the concert of the powers, or take concurrent action, or enter into co operation with any of them in bringing China to book for its misdoings. Will he stand aside altogether or will he sit on the fence. There are other considerations equally as important upon which the election of Mr. McKinley hangs. I refer to the unsettled labor conditions in the country. Not the least menacing is the recent outbreak in Chicago and more recently that in St. Louis, where the strikers employed dynamite and created a state of anarchy and disorder such as has never before been witnessed in this country. Against whom did these men rebel? Corporate power. With what party are these great corporations and trusts allied—and why? Scores of other cities have had their share of proletarian revolts which are even more formidable than were those of last year when the city of Cleveland was more terrorized by dynamite than were the mining regions of Idaho and when the Borough of Brooklyn was under military rule and when the coal miners of Pennsylvania were restrained only by the guns and bayonets of the militia. The republican party is in some respects unfortunate in having on its side the men who control these vast industries, which employ thousands of poorer men who will be likely to get revenge at the ballot box for the unfair treatment accorded them by these soulless corporations which have driven them to acts of lawlessness in the attempt to right their wrongs. If these men conclude to hold the republican party responsible for the conditions in the industrial world, the repub-

lican party will need to take a lurch in the galluses and go to work. The ignorant white laboring man is about as treacherous an animal as walks upright and he never forgets to remember an injury or to punish his enemy when he gets the opportunity.

Neither of the two parties has a deed in fee simple on the Presidency and neither of them is wise in assuming that the election of its candidate is a foregone conclusion. There has never before, in the history of American politics, been such a condition as confronts both parties in the present political crisis. The country is going through a political, social and industrial transformation. It is getting nearer to the crisis—revolution—which only the arrogance of accumulated millions can precipitate.

The Negro meanwhile is placid, loyal, tractable and unconcerned about what is transpiring around him, as he always has been—perhaps. And he has not been included by the managers of the Republican party in the equation. If, however, they are wise they will cultivate the Negro this year as they never have before and thus with his united vote, which is accessible and gettable, offset any defection in the ranks which may occur. Will the managers play this kind of politics to elect McKinley, or trust to fate the platform and the candidates' popularity to elect them? The present Chinese imbroglio bears upon the domestic politics of this country whatever is to be the policy of the President in treating conditions which must sooner or later arise, is perhaps not even known to the President himself. It is a disagreeable and annoying situation and coming right upon the eve of a presidential campaign is more so.

The fate of the Republican party is now in the balance and there are ominous portents hovering over it, despite its cheerful and confident and self-satisfied air. The powerful and persuasive forces that usually work in the interest of Mr. McKinley and the Republican party may again do their perfect work in November and land him in the White House as his own successor; still it were better not to be too confident, as many things are to happen before November which may change the whole phase of the situation.

BRUCE GRIT.

#### AMONG BOOKMAKERS AND PARAGRAPHERS.

Hot weather seems to have a bad effect upon the equanimity of Editor Franklin of The Denver Statesman. This is no time to get excited.

Archibald H. Grimke has a touching beautiful story, entitled "A Madonna of the South, in The Southern Workman for July. There is also a poem, "Our Unsung Heroes," by Paul Laurence Dunbar, while Prof. W. S. Scarborough considers the possibilities opened to the race in "Our New Possessions—an Open Door."

The arrangement to emerge "The Defender and the Afro-American Speaker did not obtain favors by mutual consent the association has been dissolved. Dr. S. P. J. Sharp has resigned as business manager of the Defender and severed his relation with the paper. We couldn't think of an Astwood-Sharp combination lasting long.

To no other person is so much credit due for the popularity of Paul Laurence

Dunbar, as to William Dean Howells, who first told the literary world of the new star in the firmament of letters. More than that, this fair man does not refuse to speak kindly of other worthy men and he gives them credit without regard to their color. Tomie Chesnutt and Washington, however, had many kind words from him.

An artistic and striking portrait of Theodore Drury as Don Jose in "Carmen" forms the frontispiece of the Colored American Magazine for June, published at Boston. The cover bears the features of James Warren Payton who writes interestingly on "Some Experiences and Customs at Yale." Frank Putnam of Chicago, gives what is announced as his "personal view" on "The Negro's Part in the New National Problems," in which "the forces of plutocracy" are vigorously assailed.

A neatly gotten up volume of verse of more than ordinary merit has been issued under the title of "The Epic of Columbus' Bell and other Poems," by George Hannibal Temple of Reading, Pa. A history is given of the bell, now the property of the African M. E. Church at Haleyville, N. J., which gives its name to the collection. The bell is stated to have been given by Queen Isabella to Columbus upon his last voyage to America.

The Richmond Planet has sustained a serious loss in the death of Mr. Thomas W. Mitchell, Jr. Mr. Mitchell was quite a young man only thirty one years of age but had risen to a place high in the journalistic profession. He was an expert compositor, and at the same time possessed such excellent business qualifications that he was raised to the position of manager of The Planet office, having control of all the business. The deceased leaves a wife and two children, a father, mother and one brother. He was a prominent member of the Knights of Pythias, Odd Fellows, Masons and other organizations.

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